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January 4, 1976

Messrs. Thomas F. Ahrensfeld
Joseph Greer
Cyril F. Hetsko
Ernest Pepples
Henry C. Roemer
Arthur J. Stevens

Re: Dr. Richard J. Hickey

Gentlemen:

We have received a draft research proposal from Dr. Richard J. Hickey with a request for support for the 1977 calendar year in the amount of $59,193.00. The work described in the proposal is essentially a continuation of Dr. Hickey's research studies which were supported as a CTR Special Project during 1976. We believe Dr. Hickey's work is important and, consequently, recommend approval of the proposal to be funded as a CTR Special Project.

Dr. Hickey has made progress in the studies described in his proposal. I have enclosed a technical report titled "Demographic and Chemical Variables Related to Chronic Disease Mortality in Man" issued June 30, 1976. I invite your attention to page 41 of this report where it is noted that, "Our findings for lung cancer appear to raise doubt concerning claims (Public Health Service, 1964, 1971, 1972, 1973) that cigarette smoking is the primary cause of lung cancer, particularly in males."

In addition, several manuscripts have been submitted by Dr. Hickey to leading journals for consideration. Two papers are "in press" and should appear shortly: one in the Archives of Environmental Health and the other in the Proceedings of a symposium at The University of Kentucky. An invitation has been

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extended to Dr. Hickey by Dr. O. Wada of The University of Tokyo to submit a review article on the health effects of environmental SO_2, sulfites and sulfates for the Review of Environmental Health.

An important aspect of Dr. Hickey's work is the accumulation and statistical analyses of environmental pollution and other data. Recently he has obtained from the E.P.A. SO_2, NO_2 and other gas data for 1972-74. Dr. Hickey has advised that past problems encountered with the acceptability of the E.P.A. data are now apparently resolved.

Regression analyses on mortality rates for diseases of the heart and environmental data have produced interesting results in that much of the variation in the rates can be explained statistically by the concentrations of atmospheric chemicals in the various geographical areas under study. Further work on the predictability of mortality rates from one set of environmental data based on equations obtained from an independent set needs to be done.

The present research proposal lists Dr. Richard C. Clelland as a co-principal investigator. His fine reputation as a statistician is known to most of you.

Please let me know of your decision on this proposal at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Donald K. Hoel

DKH:mlc
Enclosure
cc: DeBaun Bryant
Max H. Crohn, Jr.
Alexander Holtzman
Lester Pollack

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